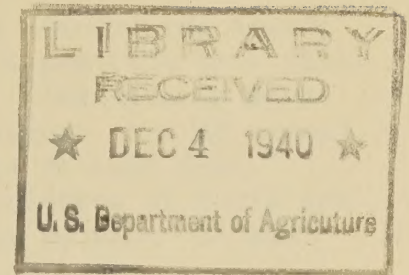


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A FARM GIRL AND A FARM HOME*

By
Eugene Merritt
Senior Extension Economist



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* An outline for a discussion of some factors to be considered before becoming established in a farm home.

A. - DO YOU LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN FARM ACTIVITIES?

What you get out of life depends primarily upon discovering traits most dominant in your make-up and placing yourself in a position that will give those traits the greatest opportunity to develop. Individuals with unusual musical talents can profit greatly by music lessons, but no amount of instruction will make a musician out of a person who is tone deaf. There are some to whom the hum of a typewriter or the clatter of footsteps of the crowd are also music. You should study yourself to find out what it is within you that gives you the greatest happiness.

Many farm young women have a natural liking to work with poultry, to see the garden grow, to be able to initiate their own activities, and when the time comes to gather home-grown vegetables or flowers, to reap the results of what they have sown. They want to work alone in a business that is fairly permanent and secure and that they can call their own. Such people generally like to work out-doors, to be where there are trees, birds, growing things, and where they can look across the valley to the wooded hills beyond; to enjoy a certain type of family life where the business of earning and living are intimately related, and where there is a place for children to play and to learn to do things as they grow. A farm home provides such individuals a congenial environment. It develops their inherited native capacities and tends to give them the satisfactions that they crave.

However, there are many other young women raised on the farm that do not possess such talents or capacities. Another environment would probably be more pleasing and satisfactory to them. If an individual likes to work with the typewriter or at a telephone switchboard rather than with growing things, to be a part of a crowd and among tall buildings and not to have to exercise too much initiative, to place on somebody else the responsibility for what the end product becomes, to enjoy the stimulus of advertising, bright lights, and the effort to keep up with the Joneses - - - such an individual might get more satisfactions out of life in a city or small town than on a farm in the open country.

A young woman's choice of whether to stay in a farming community or go into an industrial center has a bearing on the question of whom she will probably meet and marry. Most young women who remain at home on farms ultimately marry farmers. Those who do not marry generally migrate to urban centers. Therefore, if her interests are not in farming and she stays, she is confronted with the problem of whether she is willing to adjust her interests in such a way that farming, as a way of living, will not be too irritating.

For example, if she cannot stand to have the newborn lambs warmed under the kitchen stove, or to handle a setting hen, or objects to her part in keeping milk utensils clean, it is doubtful if she would be happy in a farm home. In most cases she must have sufficient interest in the farm business to understand how the income is obtained and for what purpose it would be best spent. If she marries a farmer, she plays a large part in his success or failure.

Operator's Labor Earnings -
Men Having the Best, and Men Having the Least Cooperation
From Their Wives

Group	Minnesota - Operator's labor earnings	Indiana - Operator's labor income
Men with most cooperation.....	\$1,757	\$ 781
Men with least cooperation.....	842	380

His wife's interest in the business is vital if a farmer is to succeed. This cooperative attitude will have to be a part of all their activities if as a family they are to get the most satisfaction out of life.

The farm homemaker not only must be interested in the farm business but must be able to get the utmost satisfaction out of the materials and situations a farm provides. The food products from the farm must be processed and served properly if the family is to get maximum health and vigor from their use. If the house is to provide the maximum happiness to the farm family some ingenuity will have to be exercised as to its uses and arrangements. The farm homemaker will have to exercise her creative ability not only with the material things the farm provides but with the many human situations that naturally arise. The family should be able to find a special appeal in the trees, the clouds, the sunsets.

B. WHAT SIGNIFICANCE WILL A FARM HAVE IN YOUR
LIFE PATTERN

1. What Contributions Would You Expect a Farm To Make to Your Living?

The individual living on a farm has to approach the consideration of cash expenses for living in an entirely different way from an individual entirely dependent upon a wage or salary.

a. Cash from the sale of farm products.

The cash income desired for family living should be considered in planning what farm ultimately to locate on and the type of business to be carried on. If a farm family's cash expenses should amount to \$500 and the average milk cow returned only \$25 a head above the out-of-pocket cash expenses, the farmer would have to have 20 cows in order to provide this cash for the farm family. Or if the farm hens returned only a dollar a head above the out-of-pocket cash expenses the flock would have to consist of 500 laying hens in order to provide the family with \$500 income for living.

b. Cash earned from outside work.

In many cases this cash for living expenses is obtained not from the sale of farm products but by work off the farm. Again consideration

will have to be given to what the farm will furnish direct and how much cash should be earned in order to obtain the kind of living desired.

c. Direct from farm.

Through a direct contribution most farms can furnish the family with a large share of the food consumed, and in many instances with all the fuel. A house to live in is found on nearly every farm. If a value were assigned to these contributions, in many cases it would exceed the amount of the net cash receipts. One is sure of what is produced and consumed on the farm, but what is sold may not always return a profit and thereby contribute anything to family living. The satisfactions received from whatever the size of the net farm income can be increased not only by producing the maximum on the farm but also by developing ability to appreciate what nature has provided.

d. Direct from family.

Whatever methods are used to procure the food materials or the cash for family living, the ultimate satisfaction the family will enjoy depends largely on the ability of the housewife to put them in the form for ultimate consumption that is most satisfactory to the family. Her ability to stimulate an active interest in the trees, the streams, the sunsets adds to the satisfactions a farm may contribute to good family life.

e. Undeveloped resources of farm and family.

Probably the largest unused resources in a farm family set-up are the undeveloped capacities of the different members of the family group that might contribute either to the individual's own satisfactions or to the satisfactions of some other member. By learning what foods would contribute most to the health, vigor, and growth of the family, by raising these foods on the farm, by knowing how to prepare them so they taste good, much more satisfaction might be secured from the food consumed. The active cooperation in some of the common family objectives may contribute greatly to the satisfactions coming from within the family. A little praise may make a meal a delight, a rose may add charm to a dress, a bouquet on a dining table may make it a thing of beauty.

It is not only the material things that these undeveloped capacities may contribute but also the joys that come from happy human relationships and living in an environment that appeals to the appreciation of the beautiful.

2. What Importance Would You Attach To -

a. The attitude of a husband toward farming.

Occupational congeniality is an important factor to consider in the choice of a farmer as a life partner, but other factors that contribute to success and happiness in a family are just as significant to a farm family as to any other family. Husbands and wives must enjoy each other and want similar things from life. If a young man is to succeed

in farming he must like to work with animals and to see crops grow, and he must be able to manage himself so that he will perform the farm jobs on time. Those who lack these traits usually fail.

Relation Between Attitudes Toward Enterprises and Income

Group	Indiana - Income	Minnesota - Income
	Percent	Percent
Those disliking poultry.....	49	62
Others - poultry producers.....	100	100
Those disliking hogs.....	63	36
Others - hog raisers.....	100	100
Those who dislike cattle.....	63	75
Others - cattle.....	100	100

Also, a young man may plan to farm because he will inherit a farm. The chances are that if he attempts to operate the farm, not because he likes to farm but because he inherited it, he will fail. Fortunate is the young man who likes to farm and inherits a good farm. If the young woman wants to live on a farm all these factors should be given consideration. Occupational congeniality is a far greater contribution to happiness in life on the farm than it is in most other occupations.

Reasons for Starting Farming and Returns

Reason	Minnesota - Labor earnings	Indiana - Labor income
Personal preference.....	\$1,332	\$709
Only training.....	1,074	339
Inherited farm property.....	795	508

b. The possibilities on his home farm.

From the point of view of a young married couple farms may be divided into three classes.

(1) Is it a two-family farm?- There are farms where the income is large enough to support two families and where living arrangements can be set up that are satisfactory to both families under such circumstances. A wage or partnership agreement will enable a young man to bring a bride to his farm home with a good chance for success and happiness.

(2) Is it a one-family farm? - There is another group of farms where a son can remain on the home farm and receive a fair wage, but if he brought a bride home both financial and living arrangements would require a major adjustment and the chances for success and happiness would be small.

(3) Is it a part-time farm? - On the third group of farms the operator supplements his farm returns by money earned off the farm. Of course a young man from such a farm would have to support his bride entirely by outside earnings.

The home farm of a potential life partner should be looked at from these points of view before it is accepted as a possible home.

c. His finding another farm to operate.

After previous depressions many young men moved West and took up land which was turned to new agricultural uses. Under the present situation there is a tendency to reduce the acreage of land cropped. This tends to lessen the opportunity for young people to settle upon new land or to bring additional acres into cultivation on the farms where they now live.

If our population estimates for the future are correct there is sufficient cropland now under cultivation to take care of our agricultural needs as a nation, and very little reason for increasing either the number of farms or the cultivated acreage.

Changes in Number of Farms

Census Year	Number of farms	Increase over previous census	Percentage of increase
1860.....	2,044,077	---	-
1870.....	2,659,985	615,908	30.1
1880.....	4,008,907	1,348,922	50.7
1890.....	4,564,641	555,734	13.9
1900.....	5,737,372	1,172,731	25.7
1910.....	6,361,502	624,130	10.9
1920.....	6,448,343	86,841	1.4
1930.....	6,288,648	*159,695	*2.5
1935.....	6,812,350	523,702	6.4

Bur. Census data.

*Decrease.

Therefore the problem of a young man who is looking about for a farm other than the home farm to operate is to find one that has provided a satisfactory living in the past and has possibilities of providing such a living in the future. Many farms cannot meet these requirements.

Farms Classified by Value of Products
Sold in the United States - 1929

Value of products sold	Number of farms	Cumulative percentage farms	Cumulative percentage sales
Under - \$ 250	397,517	6.6	0.1
251 - 400	518,092	15.3	1.0
401 - 600	766,118	28.0	3.4
601 - 1,000	1,245,694	48.8	10.8
1,000 - 1,500	937,910	64.4	20.6
1,501 - 2,500	981,163	80.8	38.5
2,501 - 4,000	628,006	91.2	57.7
4,000 - 6,000	291,112	96.1	71.7
6,001 - 10,000	147,753	98.5	82.3
10,000 - 20,000	61,616	99.6	91.0
Over - 20,000	24,981	100.0	

Bur. Agri. Econ. data and Bur. Census data.

d. His starting as a tenant or owner.

An increasing proportion of the young men who become farm operators start as tenants, and also start at an older age, mostly as share tenants. This situation is due primarily to inability to accumulate sufficient capital to become either a cash tenant or owner operator. Accumulating sufficient finances to start farming on one's own account is becoming an important factor in determining the rapidity of the young man's advancement up the agricultural ladder.

Number of Farm Operators by Ages

Farm operators	1930	1920	1910
<u>Under 25 years:</u>			
All owners.....	47,256	87,400	97,690
Managers.....	2,782	5,484	4,820
Cash tenants.....	30,650	47,480	80,446
Share tenants.....	290,991	243,316	236,374
Total.....	371,679	383,680	419,330
<u>25 to 34 years:</u>			
All owners.....	334,789	561,442	620,961
Managers.....	11,183	17,983	15,700
Cash tenants.....	118,567	183,761	252,299
Share tenants.....	584,513	569,834	524,916
Total.....	1,049,052	1,333,020	1,413,876

C. - WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER AS YOUR
LONG-TIME OBJECTIVES FOR A
FARM?

Most farm people want sufficient food of the right kind to make them vigorous and healthy and clothes that not only protect them against the elements but also are becoming and make them feel comfortable in the group of which they are a part. They want a house that will withstand the weather, is convenient in which to work, and contributes to good family life. Most farm people want to have children and want to train and educate them so they can successfully meet their life problems. They want to look forward to security in old age and to living in a surrounding that does not clash with their love of the artistic. You may want to add many other things to these suggestions. Every farm girl has her own "want pattern." In that pattern not only the present but also the future must be considered. The future from the point of view of a farm family may be the controlling factor in deciding many family questions. A farm may be looked upon from many different points of view, among which are:

- (1) A place to own free of debt in old age.
- (2) A place to own free of debt and large enough to take on a father-son partnership.
- (3) A place to live and raise a family with or without outside source of income.

To arrive at any objective requires efforts in order to make certain gains. These efforts are personal. We do one thing rather than another because that thing fits into what we want out of life. We may give up the keeping of an extra cow in order to raise pork and poultry for home consumption. Land for crops and time that might be used for fishing may be sacrificed in order to have a garden. The wishes and feelings of others may become more important than one's own feelings. If the long-time goal is to own a certain farm free of debt, certain sacrifices will have to be made in order to arrive at this goal. If the children's training and education is the goal, some things may have to be sacrificed to arrive at this goal.

1. To Own a Farm Free of Debt.

To retain title to a farm requires long-time planning, not only for the use of the land but for the use of the farm income. Success in this goal requires as much planning on how to use the money earned as on how to earn it. Even though the cash receipts from the farm may be fairly large, if they are not used in such a way as to increase the efficiency of the farm operations and to keep the outgo of cash within the income, sooner or later the title to the land is likely to be lost. In most areas certain living requirements are accepted as a matter of course and become a first overhead fixed charge against the receipts. If these cannot be kept within the amount of cash available, some of the capital has to be used to maintain this type of living. Therefore, this so-called standard of living is an important factor to consider in determining what the income and the outgo are likely to be for an individual farm in a certain area.

How much to sacrifice of family living, education, or health in order to own a farm free of debt is a question many farm families have to face.

Evolution of Farm Family Budget

Item	Wages boy 18 years old	Just married	Married 15-20 years	Married 35 years
Food.....		200	\$375	\$200
Clothing.....	\$100	200	360	200
Education.....	10	25	145	50
Health.....	8	25	50	50
Religion.....	10	50	60	50
Recreation.....	50	50	55	75
Fuel and light.....		50	210	100
Furniture and equipment.....		100	220	50
Personal.....	25	50	65	50
Automobile.....	100	(105)	(250)	(200)
Total.....	300	750	1,535	825
Owned capital.....	100	1,500	8,000	16,000
Borrowed.....		1,500	8,000	0
Annual savings.....	200	500	500	0
Interest.....	0	800	480	0

2. To Continue Ownership of a Farm in the Family

If your long-time objective is to own a farm with sufficient natural resources not only to maintain the parents fairly comfortably but to permit a son and his wife also to have a comfortable living, it may require more extensive acres of good land, certain sacrifices, and different choices as to what is most important. It may be necessary to have two houses, a different system of farm enterprises, or to have the son assume managerial responsibilities at an early age.

3. A Place To Raise a Family

Many families with an outside source of income live on farms simply because the parents consider the influence of farm life on the children more beneficial than life under other conditions. A farm properly organized can provide many of the foods that make up an adequate diet. The many farm tasks enable the children to develop the habits of assuming responsibilities and of accomplishment. They are in competition with nature's laws and must learn to know them and use them to their benefit. They can work and play in the open air and sunshine. Generally the housing situation

is such that they have plenty of sleeping quarters and a place to entertain friends. In many instances the ownership of the farm is sacrificed in order that the parents' ambition for their children may be realized.

After you have thought over the points raised in the above outline you may want to check your conclusions by making observations on what is happening in some of the more satisfying farm homes in your community. In this way you will be able to make a sounder decision as to what significance a farm home should have in your life pattern.

